

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5905

INFO CNO

DIA WASHDC

NAV DET SOUDA

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCUSNAVEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USMISSION NATO

UNCLASSIFIED ATHENS 7819

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER AGAIN CRITICIZES ANTI-U.S. PROTESTS BY
SMALL MINORITIES

1. LAST FRIDAY, A SMALL CRAFT FROM A VISITING NAVAL VESSEL
ENGAGED IN A FIVE-SHIP TRAINING ANCHORAGE EXERCISE AT SOUDA
BAY BECAME THE UNWITTING CAUSE OF ADDITIONAL PRESS REPORTING
ON ALLEGED "ANTI-AMERICAN" DEMONSTRATIONS IN CRETE. THE SMALL
CRAFT SET OUT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMERCIAL PIER AT
SOUDA BAY WITH THE INTENT OF PICKING UP FRESH PROVISIONS, BUT
WHEN IT ARRIVED AT THE PIER WAS ADVISED BY THE GREEK OFFICIAL
ON DUTY THAT IT SHOULD GO TO THE MILITARY PIER. THE CRAFT
THEN DIVERTED TO THE MILITARY SIDE WITHOUT FURTHER ADO. THE
U.S. NAVAL DETACHMENT AT SOUDA REPORTS THAT AT THE CIVILIAN
PIER THERE WAS A SMALL GATHERING OF YOUTHS (6-8 MEN) WHO
MILLED ABOUT BRIEFLY AND SHOUTED SOME ANTI-U.S. AND
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ANTI-NATO STATEMENTS BEFORE DISPERSING. SIMILARLY, IN

THE NEARBY TOWN OF CHANIA, A SMALL GROUP OF YOUTHS HELD
A MINOR, IF VOCIFEROUS, DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING THE
PRESENCE OF THE U.S. NAVAL UNITS.

2. THE PRESS, ESPECIALLY COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR
RIZOSPASTIS, USED THESE MINOR OCCURRENCES TO REPORT,
OFTEN IN EXAGGERATED TONES, THAT ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS
HAD TAKEN PLACE IN CRETE IN PROTEST AGAINST THE U.S.
VESSELS. RIZOSPASTIS HEADLINED THE NEWS, AND STRESSED
THAT THE PEOPLE OF CHANIA HAD PREVENTED THE AMERICANS
FROM LANDING.

3. THE INCIDENTS AND THE EXAGGERATED PRESS REPORTS
PROMPTED DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF ONCE AGAIN TO LEVY DIRECT
CRITICISM AT SUCH OCCURRENCES. THE TEXT OF THE DEFENSE
MINISTERS STATEMENT,

WHICH WAS CARRIED WIDELY IN THE
MEDIAN IS AS FOLLOWS: THE INDECENCIES WHICH TOOKK PLACE
IN DHANIURWHXRETEL#ON FRIDAY, FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE FROM

SOUDA BAY OF UNITS OF THE U.S. ULXTH FLEET, WERE THIS TIME
OF LIMITED SIGNIFICANCE. NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE OF MY
POSITION
I AM OBLIGED TO INFORM THE PEOPLE OF CHANIAN OF
CRETE, AND MORE GENERALLY THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLANDS,
THAT SUCH ACTS BY SMALL MINORITIES--IRRESPONSIVE OF
WHETHER THEY ARE LEGITIMATE IN A TRUE DEMOCRACY--DO NOT
SERVE THE DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY. THOSE WHO FEEL (THEMSELVES)
REAL GREEKS, AND THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO THINK, MUST
CONSIDER THIS ISSUE COOLY."
KUBISCH

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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